

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-56. (Cancelled)

57. (Currently Amended) A method for suppressing bacterial growth in a blood fraction, comprising adding to a blood fraction a compound selected from the group consisting of L-carnitine, salts of L-carnitine, alkanoyl carnitines, salts of alkanoyl carnitines, and mixtures thereof, in an amount effective to suppress bacterial growth in said blood fraction,

wherein said blood fraction is a prestorage-leuko-reduced platelet concentrate, and ~~wherein~~ said method comprises suspending said prestorage-leuko-reduced platelet concentrate in a support solution which comprises said compound,

the improvement comprising said prestorage-leuko-reduced platelet concentrate can be stored for about 7 to 8 days.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein said compound is comprised in a support solution in a concentration of 0.25 to 50 mM.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein said compound is comprised in a support solution in a concentration of 1 to 30 mM.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein said compound is L-carnitine.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of acetyl L-carnitine, propionyl L-carnitine, butyryl L-carnitine, isobutyryl L-carnitine, valeryl L-carnitine, and isovaleryl L-carnitine.

62-66. (Cancelled)